

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release....
September 30, 2004

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**URGENT: INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE COOK COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING FIRE TO BE POSTED AT
WWW.WITTASSOCIATES.COM AT 5PM CDT**

**PRESS BRIEFING ON THE FINAL REPORT SCHEDULED FOR
FRIDAY AT 10:00 AM CDT IN CHICAGO**

**James Lee Witt Associates to Release Full Report of the Independent Review
of the Cook County Administration Building Fire
Commissioned by the State of Illinois
*Comprehensive 400 + Page Report to include
81 Findings and Recommendations***

What: Release of the Final Report commissioned by the State of Illinois of the James Lee Witt Associates Fire Review Team with findings, recommendations, methodology and research related to the Cook County Administration Building fire. Beginning at 5:00 p.m. CDT, the Executive Summary which includes a summary of findings and recommendations; followed by the Incident Review; the Fire Modeling and Human Behavioral Study.

Who: James Lee Witt and Witt Associates Fire Review Team

Where: Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL
East Tower Columbus Room G/H **(ROOM CHANGE)**

When: Friday, October 1, 2004
10:00 a.m.

Background: On October 17, 2003 a fire broke out at the Cook County Administration Building in Chicago, IL. Governor Rod Blagojevich commissioned James Lee Witt Associates (JLWA) to conduct an independent review in order to discover the facts associated with this fire that led to the deaths and injuries, to address lessons learned and make recommendations to improve high-rise fire safety throughout the state.

James Lee Witt will release an independent, comprehensive, 400 page report with 81 findings and recommendations to assist the State of Illinois in improving the fire safety of buildings in Chicago and throughout the entire state.

Media wishing to attend the press briefing please email Kim Fuller of James Lee Witt Associates at kfuller924@aol.com. Not necessary to call.

James Lee Witt Associates (JLWA) is a leader in public safety and emergency management consulting. With a multi-faceted range of relevant experience, JLWA is uniquely positioned to help avoid, address or recover from virtually any crisis or conflict. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with offices in Atlanta, Chicago, and Sacramento, JLWA assists universities, hospitals, non-profits, international organizations, Fortune 500 companies, and local and state governments in preparing for and responding to all hazards. James Lee Witt has more than 25 years of leadership and experience in the field of public safety, including eight years as the Director of the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during which he responded to more than 370 disasters in all 50 states. He and his team have unrivaled experience and hands-on knowledge in crisis management and partnership development.